

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An automatic transport system, comprising:
  - a circular transport rail; and
  - a plurality of stocking centers enclosed by the circular transport rail,
- 5 wherein both ends of all the stocking centers are close to the circular transport rail.
2. The automatic transport system of claim 1, wherein the circular transport rail includes a track having a vehicle thereon for holding material items.
3. A method of transporting a material item from a first area to a second area using an automatic transport system having a circular transport rail and a plurality of stocking
- 10 centers enclosed inside the rail, wherein both ends of all stocking centers are close to the circular transport rail, and the material item follows a transport route from a first stocking center closest to the first area to a second stocking center nearest to the second area, the method comprising:
  - unloading the material item from the first area to an end of the first stocking
  - 15 center closest to the first area;
  - unloading the material item from the first stocking center on the end closest to the first area to the circular transport rail;
  - transporting the material item to an end of a second stocking center nearest the second area; and
  - 20 unloading the material item from the end of the second stocking center closest to the second area to the second area.